

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02268 251334Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 118751

O 251258Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 458

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2268

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS TO USDEL NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SU, ET

SUBJECT: SUDANESE INITIATING CONTACT WITH E/P FOR RELEASE

KAGNEW FOUR

REF: USDEL SECTO 13001; KHARTOUM 2233

1. SAW MINSTATE KIBEIDA AGAIN SEPT 25. HE TOLD ME NIMEIRI HAD AGREED THAT GOS SHOULD SEEK BE HELPFUL ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HE HAD INSTRUCTED KIBEIDA TO PROCEED BUT CAUTIONED HIM THAT MATTER WOULD REQUIRE DELICATE HANDLING LEST THERE BE ANY SUGGESTION HE ACTING AS USG "STOOGE." KIBEIDA SAID HE HAD ALREADY INITIATED CONTACT AND WOULD PURSUE DILLIGENTLY.

2. KIBEIDA THEN CONTRASTED PRESENT CASE WITH TENNECO CASE (WHERE HE CLAIMED POLITICAL DEMANDS HAD BEEN ABSENT) AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE NOW WERE POLITICAL DEMANDS. HE THEN QUOTED PORTIONS AUGUST 16 PLF PRESS RELEASE (ASMARA 0798) AND INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, IN CONNECTION GOS EFFORTS SEEK INTERCEDE, IF SUDANESE COULD KNOW WHETHER USG MIGHT HAVE ANY ROOM TO MANEUVER WITH RESPECT PLF DEMANDS. I REITERATED  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 02268 251334Z

STANDARD USG POSITION AGAINST BLACKMAIL AND OUR REFUSAL

NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS. CONTRARY KIBEIDA'S IMPRESSION, I RECALLED THERE HAD BEEN POLITICAL DEMANDS TENNECO CASE AT EARLY STAGE, BUT THAT THESE HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN DROPPED. VIEW SETTLED USG POLICY THIS ISSUE, BEST COURSE FOR PLF WOULD BE RELEASE OF FOUR HOSTAGES PROMPTLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. FAMILIES OF FOUR MEN AT HOME ALREADY DEEPLY CONCERNED, THOSE FAMILIES HAD FRIENDS AND NET EFFECT OF NONRELEASE WOULD APPEAR LIKELY DESTROY ANY UNDERSTANDING OF ERITREAN CASE ON PART OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. KIBEIDA REITERATED THAT MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE PURSUED DELICATELY, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOS HAD NOTHING TO GAIN. I REPLIED THAT, ON CONTRARY, GOS HAD GREAT DEAL TO GAIN IN SHAPE OF MORE RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. MATTER WAS BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED AT HIGHEST LEVELS AT HOME. WHILE I PREFERRED NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS, IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THAT SERIOUS SUDANESE EFFORT ACCOMPLISH EARLY RELEASE FOUR MEN COULD BE EXPECTED HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I CONCLUDED THAT WE FULLY AWARE SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE, FOR NIMEIRI AND FOR OURSELVES, AND ASSURED KIBEIDA IT WAS BEING MOST CLOSELY HELD. KIBEIDA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE HOPED NO PUBLICITY RE SUDANESE ROLE WOULD APPEAR.

3. COMMENT: UNCLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT GOS MAY BE PREPARED INTERVENE WITH PLF BUT SOME INITIATIVE HAS AT LEAST BEEN UNDERTAKEN. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ANY PUBLICITY SUDANESE ROLE, INCLUDING MORE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION WITH AREA GOVERNMENTS, SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USDEL NEW YORK.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KHARTO02268  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750332-1117  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750914/aaaaamli.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 KHARTOUM 2233  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUDANESE INITIATING CONTACT WITH E/P FOR RELEASE KAGNEW FOUR  
**TAGS:** PINT, SU, ET, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (STRICKLAND, DAVID S), (HARRELL, JAMES J), (BOWIDOWICZ, THOMAS S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006